

COMMITMENT



Texas Department of Health
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

July, 1998

Volume 7, Number 7

100,000 Women Screened Through BCCCP

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) is pleased to announce that the Program has screened more than 100,000 women! Since the Program started in 1992, BCCCP has made breast examinations, mammograms and Pap tests more accessible to at-risk populations. BCCCP congratulates all providers for meeting this important goal! Thank you for the good work that you do.

Region 8 Joins Case Management Project

Public Health Region (PHR) 8 recently joined a project funded by the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) to implement case management activities. PHR 8 will renew efforts to create resources in rural areas and expedite diagnosis for women in San Antonio and the surrounding region. PHR 8 joins the case management project based on the success of a 1996 pilot project involving PHR 8 and several other BCCCP providers.

The pilot project showed the interval from screening to diagnosis

was shortened significantly for clients in urban areas, and resources for diagnostic and treatment services were developed for clients in rural areas.

Last year, additional projects were funded in Public Health Regions 5 and 6 in Southeast Texas, and South Texas.

William Riggins, M.D., PHR 8 Director, is committed to a community-based approach to service delivery and is a key figure in the project.

Effective case management for BCCCP providers in a region requires close collaboration with each provider to identify client needs and develop new resources throughout the region.

Community-based approaches will assure that eligible women in all areas have access to screening services. In addition to increasing screening, diagnostic and treatment access, goals in PHR 8 will be to reduce or eliminate the number of

women refusing follow-up services and the number of women lost to follow-up.

If you have any questions regarding this project or other case management issues, contact Karen Knox, Case Management Coordinator at (800) 452-1955.

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"Here's What We Propose" -- William Riggins, M.D., Public Health Region 8 Director discusses the new Case Management Project for Region 8.

BCCCP Briefs

Training

New Employee Orientation is scheduled for **Thursday, September 17**. The training will be held at the Texas Department of Health Central Office in Austin. Contact Karen McAnarney, R.N., Nurse Consultant at (800) 452-1955 for more information and Lurah Oliver, Administrative Technician, to register for the orientation.

Announcements



Christina Stovall, M.P.H., Epidemiologist will be leaving BCCCP to attend medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. Please join us in wishing Christina well!

Internet Resources

You can find a comprehensive overview of cervical cancer screening at: <http://oncolink.upenn.edu/classroom/colp/>

Who to Call & How to Reach Us...

General Information/Administration:

Margaret Méndez	Robert Reeves
Nora Ogea	Lisa West
Lurah Oliver	Rhonnda Jones

Professional Education, Clinical Services, Case Management:

Karen Knox	Karen McAnarney
Claudia Himes	

Public Information and Outreach:

Stephen Wright	Andrea Littlefield
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Data Collection and Maintenance:

Vincent Crawley	Christina Stovall
Codie Prinz	Wanda Gibson
Steve Johnson	June Browning
Constance Holloway	

Data Collection Forms

Wanda Gibson

Cancer Epidemiology/Demographics:

Christina Stovall

Billing:

Kathy Kokel	Codie Prinz
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Website Address

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bcccp/>

Local Changes

Please call or write Wanda Gibson, Public Health Technician, with **ANY** changes in local phone numbers, personnel or providers. *Thank you.*

Using Numbers to Define Risk May Not Be Clearest Communication

A recent study, conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, looked at the relationship between numeracy (understanding basic probability and numerical concepts) and the ability to comprehend frequently used risk reduction expressions about the benefit of screening mammography.

The study showed that quantitative expressions may have no meaning or may represent useless and perhaps confusing information to women. The study highlighted problems in communicating the benefit of a screening to patients.

Some ways were suggested to address the problems in grasping

quantitative information. Suggestions included using better numeric formats, combining numeric and verbal formats and using visual displays.

Messages using both verbal and numeric formats may be especially useful. Visual displays that do not rely entirely on quantitative information may be more effective in communicating the risk for disease or the benefit of treatment. For instance, women with breast cancer found a "decision board" (which showed the risks and benefits of chemotherapy on an adjustable pie chart) helpful in making decisions about chemotherapy.

Thanks for Responding to Our Commitment Survey

Thank you to all who responded to the *Commitment* survey. We received many favorable comments on the content of *Commitment*. We are incorporating your suggestions like wanting more clinical information, and in the next few months, watch for Clinical Updates to be added to *Commitment*.

Are you having trouble reaching someone in the State office? Please let us know if you don't get a response in a reasonable amount of time.

Continue to let us know what you want to see in *Commitment*. We are always open for suggestions. Contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955.

Ask The Expert

*Don't forget, **you** can submit your own questions on any subject related to the program such as nursing, case management, billing, data or outreach. Send questions to Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199.*

Q Can I make error corrections over the phone?

A ANY provider can call to correct an error. BCCCP will just need to know the team's data operator. Phoning in error corrections will greatly reduce the amount of paperwork for the provider and BCCCP. This will also assist in getting errors corrected in a more timely manner. Call your team's data operator at (800) 452-1955 to make any error corrections.

QA Meetings Open to Providers

The first Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) Quality Assurance (QA) Meeting for BCCCP providers is scheduled for August 26, 1998. The meeting will be held at the State office in Austin. Invitations and details will follow next month.

Please remember you may submit any topics you would like discussed at the QA meetings. Submit the topics on the form sent to you in the April monthly packet.

If you have any topic, or questions contact Wanda Gibson at (800) 452-1955 or you may email her at wanda.gibson@tdh.state.tx.us.

Here to Serve You

Case Management Conference Scheduled for July in Houston

Blueprint for the Future: Building Case Management conference is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28 and Wednesday, July 29. Sponsored by the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP), the conference will offer participants an opportunity to improve their case management skills and strategies.

Breakout sessions will include information about interviewing, tracking systems, documentation, funding and volunteering. Each breakout session will offer an opportunity for learning, discussion and planning.

The conference is being held at the Sheraton Astrodomo in Houston. The deadline for conference and hotel registration is July 10. To make reservations and receive conference rates, please call the hotel directly at (800) 627-6461 and identify yourself as a participant with the BCCCP.

If you have any questions about the conference, contact Karen Knox, Case Management Coordinator at (800) 452-1955.



For the benefit of new provider staff, we continue to introduce State office staff. Pictured above are (left to right) Rhonnda Jones, Administrative Technician; Connie Holloway, Data Entry Operator; and Claudia Himes, R.N., Nurse Consultant. Call staff at (800) 452-1955 for assistance.

Wreath Day Planned for October

Again this October, Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) will celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Day in Texas with the Wreath Project. The Wreath Project was extremely successful last year in increasing awareness of the importance of early detection of breast cancer.

In addition to the Wreath Project, BCCCP will join ACS in promoting the Tell-A-Friend Friday campaign. Every Friday in October, women will be encouraged to call five friends age 50 or older to remind them to get a breast examination and mammogram.

BCCCP hopes to carry out the Wreath Project this year in more

counties than last year. BCCCP will send packets to help providers organize the Wreath Project in their communities. The Project entails obtaining support from County Commissioners or other local officials for a place to hang the wreath, an official proclamation and appearances. The provider will also design, create or find assistance with the creation of the wreath for the ceremony. Providers will organize speakers for the day, including a breast cancer survivor from their community, and publicize the event.

BCCCP offers to help you have an extraordinary event. If you need assistance please call Steve Wright, Public Information Coordinator or Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist at (800) 452-1955.

Important Dates

July

Women's Health Issues Month

July 28 - 29

Case Management
Conference - Houston

July 31

3rd Quarter Reports Due

August

August 26

Quality Assurance Meeting

August 27

LBJ's Birthday
Skeleton crew at State office

Women Served*:
101,049

Breast Screenings:
118,161

Cervical Screenings:
89,806

Breast Cancers:
586

Cervical Carcinoma in situ:
1355

Invasive Cervical Cancer:
45

*As of June 9, 1998

Commitment

A monthly bulletin

Send news/information to:

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Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program
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